**Villages covered with non-conventional energy sources in Karnataka**

352. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENGERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Karnataka covered with Non-Conventional Energy sources so far;

(b) how many villages are proposed to be provided with Non-Conventional Energy in Karnataka; and

(c) what are the incentives being given to promote Non-Conventional Energy sources in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry is implementing a remote village electrification programme with the aim to electrify all remote census villages through non-conventional energy sources. 21 remote villages have been identified in Karnataka for electrification through non-conventional energy sources under this programme. 5 villages and 8 hamlets are proposed to be electrified in the State during 2004-05.

(c) The Ministry is providing Central Financial Assistance up to 90% of the cost of the projects under the remote village electrification programme, with specific benchmarks linked with technologies adopted for electrification, throughout the country, including Karnataka.

**Slow pace of rural electrification**

353. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's electricity generation is one of the slowest growing infrastructure sector in the country and has had a huge negative fallout on rural India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only 43 per cent of the rural households have access to electricity;

(c) if so, the present status of rural electrification; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to improve the electricity generation in the country?